

The 2nd Sunday in Lent ~ Sunday, February 25, 2018

“A House of Prayer ~ The Purpose of Prayer”

John 15:1-17

“Is prayer your steering wheel or your spare tire? (Corrie Ten Boom)

MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT PRAYER

- Prayer is a _____.
- Prayer is a _____. They only use prayer when they're _____; as a last resort; when things finally fall apart and they come to the _____ of themselves.
- Prayer is a _____. They try to out _____ or convince God to do something for them.
- Prayer is a _____. The only reason I pray is because I _____ to; it's a duty; something required of me by the _____ or the preacher. The basic motivation behind this approach is _____. This kind of prayer is all about meaningless _____. This approach makes prayer something you _____ rather than something you _____.

Prayer isn't a duty; it's a _____, whereby we're invited to come into the very presence of the _____ of the Universe and to commune with Him. Prayer is the primary way that we _____ in relationship with God.

“Devote yourselves to prayer with an alert mind and thankful heart..” (Colossians 4:2)

4 PURPOSES FOR PRAYER

#1. Prayer is an act of _____.
It is an opportunity for us to express our devotion to God and our _____ upon Him.

One of the biggest hindrances to prayer is that we either consciously or unconsciously don't believe we _____ God. Instead we believe that we can do it _____. It's not until we come to the _____ of ourselves; when we hit a wall; or fall down and can't get up, that we realize we actually _____ God.

In order to come to God in prayer with the right kind of _____, we have to be _____.

“Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.” (John 15:4-7)

- Just as a branch is 100% dependant on the vine for nourishment; we're 100% _____ on God. In fact, apart from Him we can do _____.
- Just as a branch will wither and die if it's severed from the vine, we too will wither and die if we become _____ from the Lord.
- Just as a branch will bear fruit if its _____ in the vine, we too will bear fruit in our _____, if we abide in Christ.

Whether we recognize it or not, prayer is our _____; our support system; or _____ in the storm—without it, we have no strength, no power, no spiritual air to breathe; we're helpless and _____.

**How dependant are you on God?
Is this dependance evident in your prayer life?**

#2. Prayer is an act of _____.
Communication is important in any _____; and if we don't communicate, the relationship will eventually _____.

Unless we communicate with God through prayer, we can't fully understand who _____; we can't fully understand who _____; and we can't fully understand His _____ for our lives.

“I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant doesn't know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last...” (John 15:15-16)

The reason we can come to God in prayer is because we're in _____ with Him. And Jesus describes this relationship as a _____.

“There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends.” (John 15:13)

Paul tells us that we are God's _____. (Ephesians 1:3-6)

“See what great love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are.” (1 John 3:1)

“Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.” (Hebrews 4:16)

Sometimes we can have a hard time believing that God is really _____ in us.

“Cast all your burdens on God, because he cares for you.” (1 Peter 5:7)

**Do you know God’s great love for you?
What evidence of this is there in your prayer life?**

#3. Prayer is an act of _____.
Supplication =

“Don’t worry about anything but in everything, with your prayers and your supplications, make your requests known to God and the peace of God which passes all understanding will keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” (Phil 4:6)

“If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you!” (John 15:7)

“Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be complete.” (John 16:24)

“You do not have because you do not ask.” (James 4:3)

When you love someone, you’re _____ in every aspect of their lives. The same is true of God—He’s interested in our lives—even those things we think are too small or _____ to bring to Him.

God want us to ask in prayer so that our _____ may be complete.

“Which of you fathers if your son asked for a fish would you give him a snake instead? Or if he asked for an egg would you give him a scorpion? If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him.” (Luke 11:11)

We can come to God and ask Him for those things we _____ to live—our daily bread—and we can come to Him with our _____—those things that we don’t necessarily need, but want.

“Delight yourself also in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart.” (Psalm 37:4)

“He will fulfill the desires of those who reverence Him.” (Psalm 145:15)

These passages don’t tell us that God will give us everything we _____, but rather that when we’re delighting in Him—when we’re; reverencing Him—there’s a greater chance of our _____ being lined up with His will; and when this happens, our desires can’t be _____.

“And this is the boldness we have in him, that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have obtained the requests made of him.” (John 5:14-16)

What are you lacking right now in your life simply because you haven’t asked God?

What role does supplication play in your prayer life ?

#4 Prayer is an act of _____.

God, in His _____, has chosen to _____ with us; to allow us to share in His plan for the world.

When we pray for other people, we’re _____ with God. We’re teaming up with God to _____ His work in the world—to see His perfect _____ done here on earth, as it is in heaven.

“Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.” (John 14:12-13)

When Jesus Christ was here on earth, He voluntarily _____ Himself by becoming human. Our prayers aren’t limited by _____ or _____.

People can reject our _____, reject our _____, reject us as a person, but they’re totally _____ against our prayers.

Like a river, God can change the course of _____ by our prayers. If we can pray, we can make the _____ possible.

Instead of trying to work it out on our own—we have the _____ of God behind us. Our part is _____, Jesus’ part is the _____!

“Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, says the Lord of hosts.” (Zech 4:6)

How do you cooperate with God through prayer?